

REMARKS

In the patent application, claims 1-22 are pending. In the office action, all pending claims are rejected.

Applicant has amended claims 14 – 17 and added new claims 23-24. Claims 14-16 have been amended to change the word “coding” to “encoding”. Claim 14 has also been amended to change the “means” for identifying to “an identifying module” and change the “means” for providing to “a multiplexing module”. The identifying module is described on p.11, lines 24-27. Claim 17 has been amended to add the limitation of a demultiplexer module as shown in Figure 3. In new claim 23, the receiving means and the retrieving means are described on p.11, lines 11-14. The providing means is described on p.11, lines 25-27, and the concealing means is described on p.11, lines 27-31. In new claim 24, the identifying means is described on p.10, lines 16-17, and the providing means is described on p.10, lines 25-32.

No new matter has been introduced.

At section 3 of the office action, claims 1-10, 14, 17, 19 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Wells et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 6,310,915, hereafter referred to as *Wells*).

In rejecting these claims, the Examiner states that *Wells* discloses a method of error concealment wherein an error concealment procedure is applied to conceal an error in a frame belonging to a transition based on the identified type of scene transition (col.10, lines 10-20; col.12, lines 45-67).

Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Wells discloses a method of decoding and re-encoding a previously encoded video signal to a second encoded representation (see Abstract). In particular, *Wells* discloses having scanners 22, 22' to gather information regarding each picture and the k-1 pictures that follow it in the previously encoded video signal (col.9, line 52-54). The information includes (a) the picture coding type (I, B or P),... (p) characteristics of the content of the video, such as scene changes, dissolves, fades, slow motion sequences, etc. (col.10, lines 12-14). The information may indicate the encoded representation of the previously encoded video signal (col.10, lines 51 to col.11,

line2). The purpose of gathering the information is to allow the encoders 20, 20' to adjust encoding in order to re-encode the video signal more optimally (col.11, lines 5-7). The encoding adjustment includes a number of actions, including (2) changing channel bit rate, (3) changing picture resolution, ... (9) enabling/disabling error concealment motion vectors. Error concealment motion vectors enable reconstruction of corrupted rows of macroblocks. However, error concealment motion vectors are strictly optional. Thus, it is possible for the encoders 20, 20' to omit error-concealment motion vectors. Alternatively, the encoders 20, 20' can retain previously encoded or add newly generated error-concealment motion vectors (col.12, lines 48 – 65).

In sum, *Wells* only discloses that the encoder has an option to retain, delete or add error-concealment motion vectors when re-encoding the video signal. However, *Wells* does not disclose or suggest how to conceal errors in the decoding process. Thus, *Wells* is irrelevant to the present invention as claimed in claims 1-10, 17, 19 and 22.

In rejecting claim 14, the Examiner states that *Wells* discloses means for identifying frames associated with the transition (col. 10, lines 10-12) and means for providing information about the type of transition (col.12, lines 45-67).

It is respectfully submitted that, at col.12, lines 45-67, *Wells* discloses:

(9) Enable (retain or add)/disable (delete or refrain from generating) error-concealment motion vectors, slice headers or both: Error-concealment motion vectors enable reconstruction of corrupted row of macroblocks. However, error-concealment motion vectors are strictly optional and occasionally are not needed in low channel error environments (e.g. if the channel is a storage medium such as an optical disc). Likewise, slice headers are also optional. ... Thus, it is occasionally desirable for the encoder 20, 20' to omit (i.e. delete previously encoded or refrain from generating new) error-concealment motion vectors, slice headers or both, in the re-encoded video signal in an effort to conserve bits. In the alternative, the encoder 20 and 20' can include (i.e., retain previously encoded or add newly generated) error-concealment motion vectors, slice headers or both in the re-encoded video signal.

Thus, *Wells* only discloses that the encoder has an option to retain, delete or add error-concealment motion vectors when re-encoding the video signal. In contrast, the transition type information is explicitly provided in the encoded video data stream.

For the above reasons, claim 14 is distinguishable over the cited *Wells* reference.

At section 5, claims 11-13, 15-16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wells*, in view of *Viscito et al.* (U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2004/0005007, hereafter referred to as *Viscito*). The Examiner cites *Viscito* for disclosing that the information indicative of the identified scene transition is provided in a supplemental enhancement information message (paragraph [0045], lines 5-11) so as to conceal the error based on the information.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 11-13, 15-16 and 18 are dependent from claims 1, 14 and 17 and recite features not recited in claims 1, 14 and 17. For reasons regarding claims 1, 14 and 17 above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 11-13, 15-16 and 18 are also distinguishable over the cited *Wells* and *Viscito* references.

Claim 23 has the limitations of various means in a video decoder. *Wells* does not disclose a decoder with those means. Thus, claim 23 is distinguishable over the cited *Wells* reference.

Claim 24 has the limitation of a means for providing information about the type of transition in the encoded video data stream. *Wells* only discloses that the encoder has an option to retain, delete or add error-concealment motion vectors when re-encoding the video signal. Thus, claim 24 is distinguishable over the cited *Wells* reference.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-24 are allowable. Early allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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